

Appl. No. : 09/836,674
Filed : April 16, 2001

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Matters of Form

Claims 1 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and second paragraph, as specified in paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of the outstanding Office Action. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the grounds for rejecting these claims, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 36 as discussed in the interview in order to advance prosecution.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 16-18 and 21-26

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 16-18, 20 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suntola (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,590). Claims 20-21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suntola in view of Soininen et al (U.S. 5,855,680). Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suntola in view of Mochizuki et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,092). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 20 and 36 as discussed during the February 9, 2005 interview. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims depend upon these independent claims and, thus, for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the pending claims in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

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Respectfully submitted,

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